

Skeptical Satirical Shorts Under 666 Seconds

For Immediate Release

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The Freethought Film Festival Foundation has launched a Web-based short film contest that focuses on skepticism. In honor of the National Day of Reason, celebrated by secularists in the US, a contest titled, "Skeptical Satirical Shorts Under 666 Seconds", is being held by the organization behind the International Freethought Film Festival. The challenge is for filmmakers to create a short film that satirizes incredulous truth-claims such as paranormal, psychic, astrology, homeopathy, faith healing, UFO, alien and conspiracy claims—just to name a few. The length of the film must be under 666 seconds.

Online viewers will rate the contest entries on the freethoughtfilmfest Openfilm.com channel, and five finalists will be selected based on rating statistics. The top five films will be screened at the International Freethought Film Festival, and the first place winner will be voted upon by a panel of judges that are celebrities within the skeptic community. Among the confirmed judges are D. J. Grothe, president of the James Randi Educational Foundation, Barry Karr, director of the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry, James Underdown and Joe Nickell of the Center for Inquiry; as well as several more skeptic judges to be announced.

\$1000 in cash and prize awards, courtesy of the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry & Skeptical Inquirer magazine, and the James Randi Educational Foundation, will go to the first place winner. Film entries for the contest will be accepted until September 30th, 2011. Viewer ratings will be tabulated through November 30th, 2011, and the finalists and first place winner will be announced on December 13th, 2011.

"When a freethinker hears a claim that makes one's face twist with doubt; there is very little hesitation to challenge the claim. If evidence is not available to confirm or disprove it, many freethinkers are comfortable with indefinitely suspending their judgment.", said Andrea Steele, founder and director of the International Freethought Film Festival.

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Freethought Film Festival Foundation, Inc. was established in August, 2009, for the purpose of hosting an annual, International Freethought Film Festival. Its mission is to promote reason, critical thinking and freedom of inquiry through the medium of film. It is incorporated as a non-profit, charitable, educational organization, as an exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Federal tax code.

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